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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): J. ISHIBASHI et al

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Submitted herewith are copies of the publications identified on the attached Patent Office form PTO/SB/08A. Also enclosed is an International Search Report.

USP Nos. 5,048,077 and 5,970,418 and Japanese KOKAI Nos. 06-276265 and 09-321848 are identified on page 1 of the specification.

Japanese KOKAI No. 10-340073 is identified on page 20 of the specification.

Japanese KOKAI No. 09-113801 is identified on page 22 of the specification.

It is respectfully requested that the publications submitted herewith be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper.to Account

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Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → PTO/SB/08A (08-00) U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Application Number Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO Herewith Filing Date INFORMATION DISCLOSURE ISHIBASHI First Named Inventor STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Group Art Unit Examiner Name 03482/LH 1 Attorney Docket Number of Sheet U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Relevant Kind Name of Patentee or Publication Date Exam. Inits* Cite Document Number Code² Applicant Portion MM-DD-YYYY WELLS ET AL 09-10-1991 5,048,077 YANAGIDA 07-27-1999 5,930,724 Α BUDD ET AL 5,970,418 Δ 10-19-1999 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Kind Name of Patentee or Publication Relevant Cite T^6 Document Number4 Code⁵ Applicant Date MM-DD-YYYY Portion Offc3 MORITA ET AL 07-13-1993 **X*** 05-176039 Α JΡ 06-276265 Α OTOMAMAY 09-30-1994 Х* NAKAOKA ET AL JΡ 09-113801 A 05-02-1997 X* UNO ET AL J₽ 09-321848 Α 12-12-1997 X* 10-126467 SASAKI ET AL 05-15-1998 JP Α X* 10-340073 IDO ET AL X* JT. Α 12-22-1998 0 928 093 CACHARD EP **A1** 07-07-1999 2000-253113 SUSO ET AL 09-14-2000 **x*** ďΡ Α JP 2000-349897 BOKU ET AL 12-15-2000 X* Α MIYASHITA 02-09-2001 x* JΡ 2001-036619 Α *English abstract attached. Examiner Date

**EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Considered

DATE MAILED: August 13, 2003

Signature

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents, ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.